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THE CASE OF COPS FILES # 14

BUTTONS ON A VESS

AWRIGHT, LEMME GET DIS STRAIGHT...
YOU COME TO ME FROM OUTTA TOWN, YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS DRAGO, AND YOU WISH TO PAY ME MY DUE RESPECT AS CRIME LORD O' EMPIRE CITY BY ASKIN' A FAVOR?
WHAT KINDO' FAVOR, DRAGO?
SKWEE!
PERMISSION, BIG BOSS, TO LAUNCH A TORPEDO ON YOUR TURF... AND ALSO, UH...
...THE LOAN OF A TORPEDO.

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De GUZMAN & COSTANZA * HELEN VESIK * KEVIN DOOLEY * ANDREW HELFER
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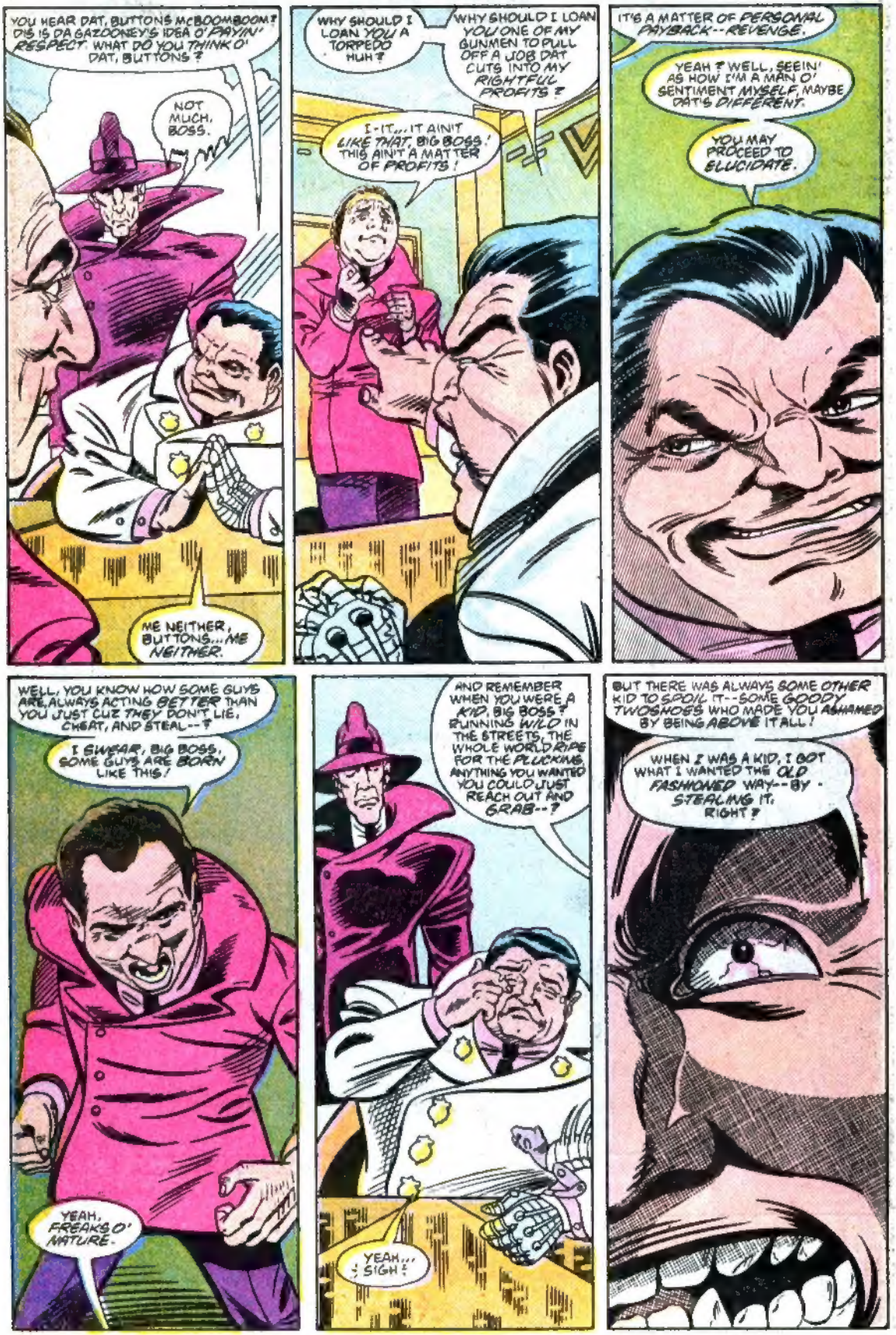
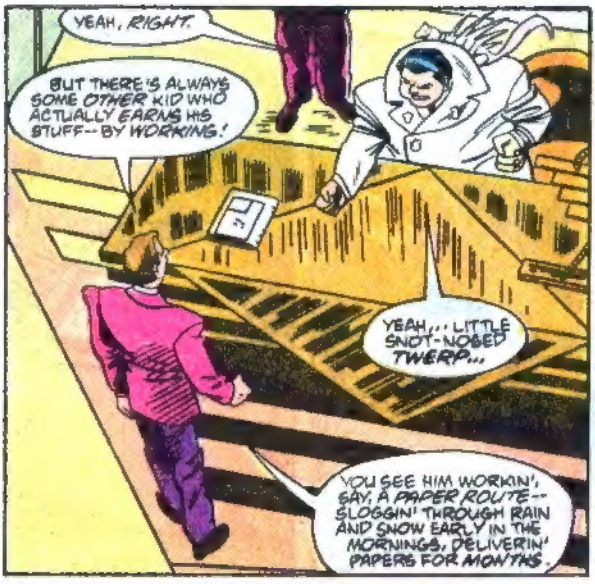
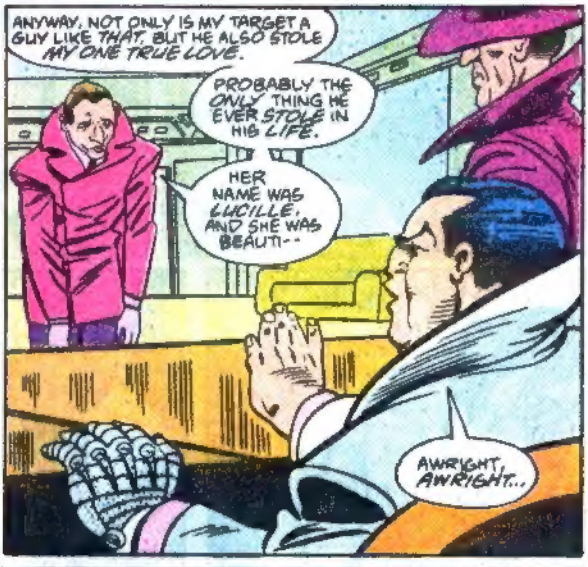

YOU HEAR DAT, BUTTONS McBOOMBOOM? DIS IS DA GAZOONEY'S IDEA O' PAYIN' RESPECT. WHAT DO YOU THINK O' DAT, BUTTONS?
NOT MUCH, BOSS.
ME NEITHER, BUTTONS... ME NEITHER.
WHY SHOULD I LOAN YOU A TORPEDO HUH?
WHY SHOULD I LOAN YOU ONE OF MY GUNMEN TO PULL OFF A JOB DAT CUTS INTO MY RIGHTFUL PROFITS?
I-IT... IT AINIT LIKE THAT, BIG BOSS! THIS AIN'T A MATTER OF PROFITS!
IT'S A MATTER OF PERSONAL PAYBACK--REVENGE.
YEAH? WELL, SEEIN' AS HOW I'M A MAN O' SENTIMENT MYSELF, MAYBE DAT'S DIFFERENT.
YOU MAY PROCEED TO ELUCIDATE.
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW SOME GUYS ARE, ALWAYS ACTING BETTER THAN YOU JUST CUZ THEY DON'T LIE, CHEAT, AND STEAL--?
I SWEAR, BIG BOSS, SOME GUYS ARE BORN LIKE THIS!
YEAH, FREAKS O' NATURE.
AND REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE A KID, BIG BOSS? RUNNING WILD IN THE STREETS, THE WHOLE WORLD RIPE FOR THE PLUCKING, ANYTHING YOU WANTED YOU COULD JUST REACH OUT AND GRAB--?
YEAH... ;SIGH!
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOME OTHER KID TO SPOIL IT--SOME GOODY TWOSHOES WHO MADE YOU ASHAMED BY BEING ABOVE IT ALL!
WHEN I WAS A KID, I GOT WHAT I WANTED THE OLD FASHIONED WAY--BY STEALING IT, RIGHT?


YEAH, RIGHT.
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOME OTHER KID WHO ACTUALLY EARNS HIS STUFF--BY WORKING!
YEAH,.. LITTLE SNOT-NOSED TWERP...
YOU SEE HIM WORKIN', SAY, A PAPER ROUTE--SLOGGIN' THROUGH RAIN AND SNOW EARLY IN THE MORNINGS, DELIVERIN' PAPERS FOR MONTHS.

THEN ONE DAY HE RIDES BY, TOSSIN' HIS PAPERS FROM A BRAND-NEW BICYCLE!

IT MAKES ME SICK!


ANYWAY, NOT ONLY IS MY TARGET A GUY LIKE THAT, BUT HE ALSO STOLE MY ONE TRUE LOVE.
PROBABLY THE ONLY THING HE EVER STOLE IN HIS LIFE.
HER NAME WAS LUCILLE, AND SHE WAS BEAUTI--
AW'RIGHT, AW'RIGHT...

DIS AIN'T NO ROMANCE BUREAU, DRAGO...
I AIN'T ASKING MUCH, BIG BOSS...

...JUST THE LOAN OF A TOUGH TORPEDO--LIKE MR. MC BOOM BOOM HERE--LONG ENOUGH TO FIND THIS GUY AND DELIVER HIM TO ME ON HIS KNEES!
YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND, BIG BOSS.

OH, I UNDERSTAND, DRAGO. I KNOW A GUY JIST LIKE DAT. HOLIER DEN THOU. SENT MY BRUDDER UP DA RIVER--
--AN' HE'S ALSO CAUSED ME A LOT O' TROUBLE BY BEIN' DA HEAD O' COPS...
HE'S GOTTA PAY... HE'S GOTTA PAY...
HIS NAME'S--
BALDWIN P. VESS HAS GOTTA PAY!
YEAH, BALDWIN P.--
VESS?!!
YOU'RE AFTER VESS?!!
THAKRUNCHT
DIS IS DIFFERENT...
... IN DAT CASE, I SHALL NOT ONLY LOAN YOU DA TIME AN' SERVICES OF A TOUGH TORPEDO, BUT I SHALL LET YOU HAVE NONE OTHER THAN MY PERSONAL BODYGUARD.
THANK YOU, BIG BOSS, THANK YOU!
BUTTONS, I AM TEMPORARILY REASSIGNIN' YOU TO MR. DRAGO HERE.
NOW THE TWO O' YA GET OUTTA HERE AN' GO NAIL--
4

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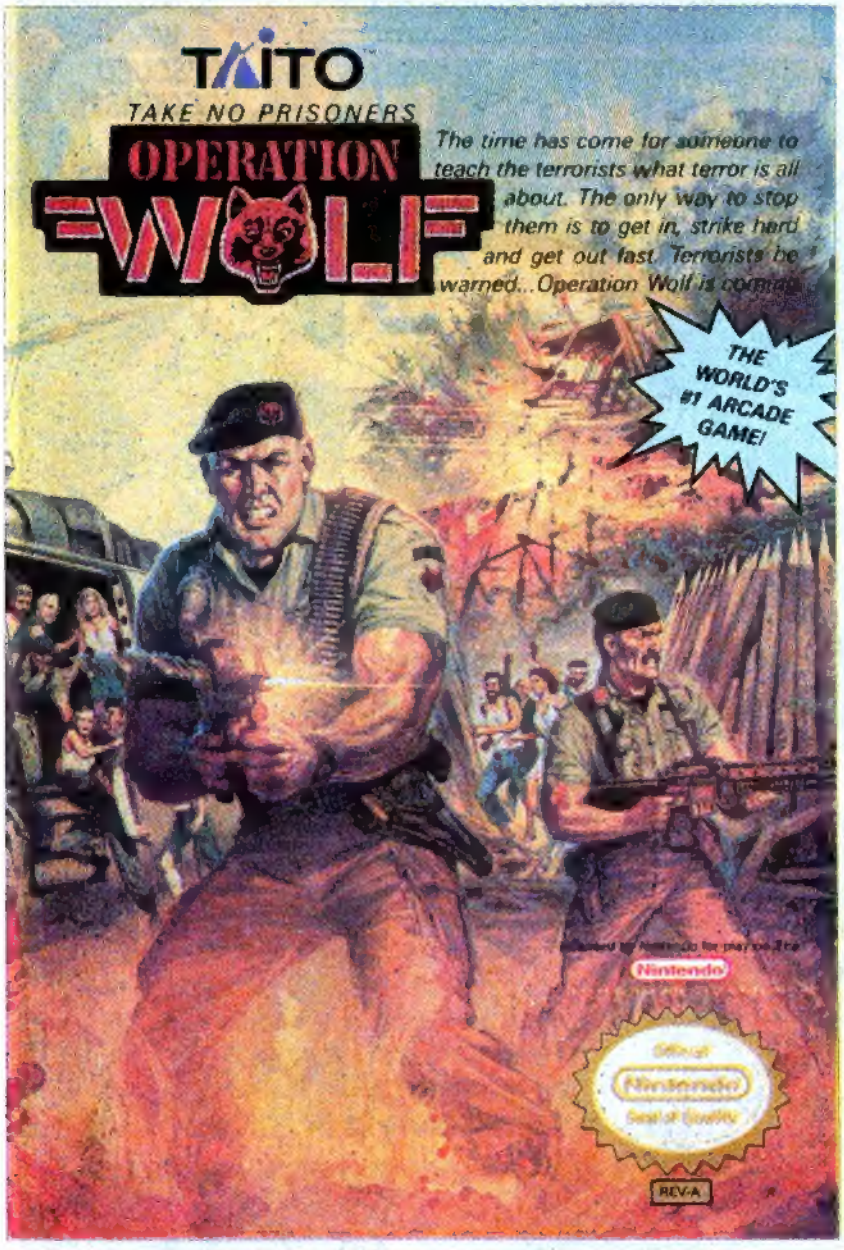
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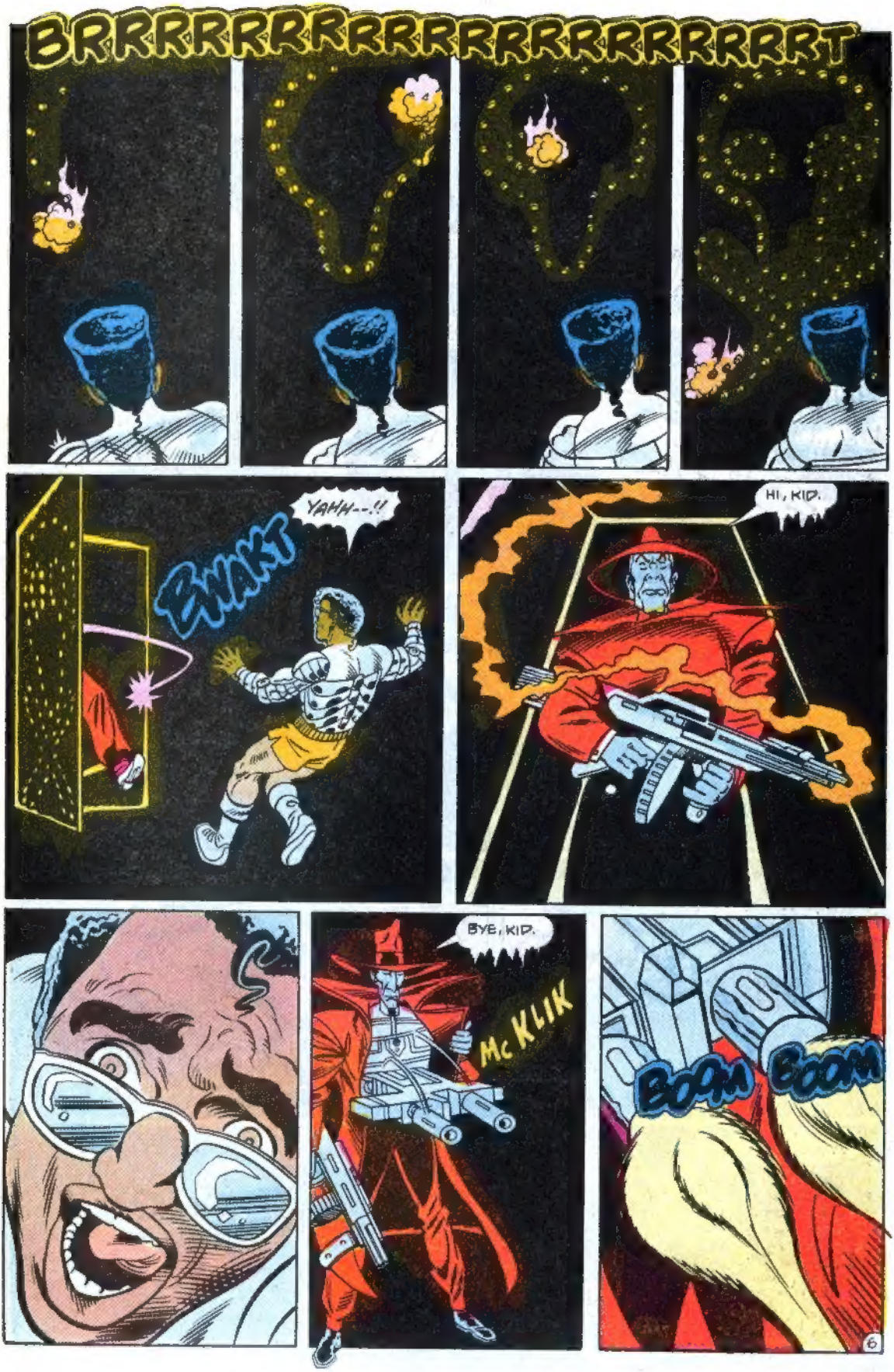
"...BALDWIN P. VESS!"
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR--
WHAT THE--?!
THE STREET UP AHEAD--IT'S... MELTING?!
MY BIKE!! THE WORLD!
I'M LOSING IT!!
YAAAAAHHHHHHHH
UNFF!
KTANK
MY CH-CHEST... M-METAL...
BUT... WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO--
BRRRRRRT


BRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRT
BWAKT
YAHH--!!
HI, KID.
BYE, KID.
Mc KLIK
BOOM BOOM
6

YAHN--"
N-NO
JUST A D-DREAM.
SO REAL TERRIFYING
BUT JUST...A NIGHTMARE
NO SUCH THING AS PREMONITIONS... SEEING THE FUTURE...
...NOT EVEN IN SYMBOLIC TERMS...
JUST SUPERSTITION..
JUST A DREAM
BUT SO REAL..
AS REAL AS THE BUTTONS ON A VEST

BUTTONS-- WITH A VIOLIN CASE YET! WHAT ARE YOU--A MAESTRO?
I PLAY NIGHT MUSIC, DRAGO. PLUSO WITH PASSION. THUNDER, FURY-- PERCUSSION.
HEH! I GET IT-- EXPLOSIVE MUSIC. JUST THE KIND I'M IN THE MOOD TO HEAR
I AM NOT IN THE MOOD, DRAGO...
...TO HEAR YOUR GRATING VOICE.
OKAY, OKAY... SHEESH
...DOES NO.
MORNING, AGENT VEGA! IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME, I THOUGHT WE COULD GO OVER THOSE STATISTICS ON--
NOT TODAY, LONGARM
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD
8

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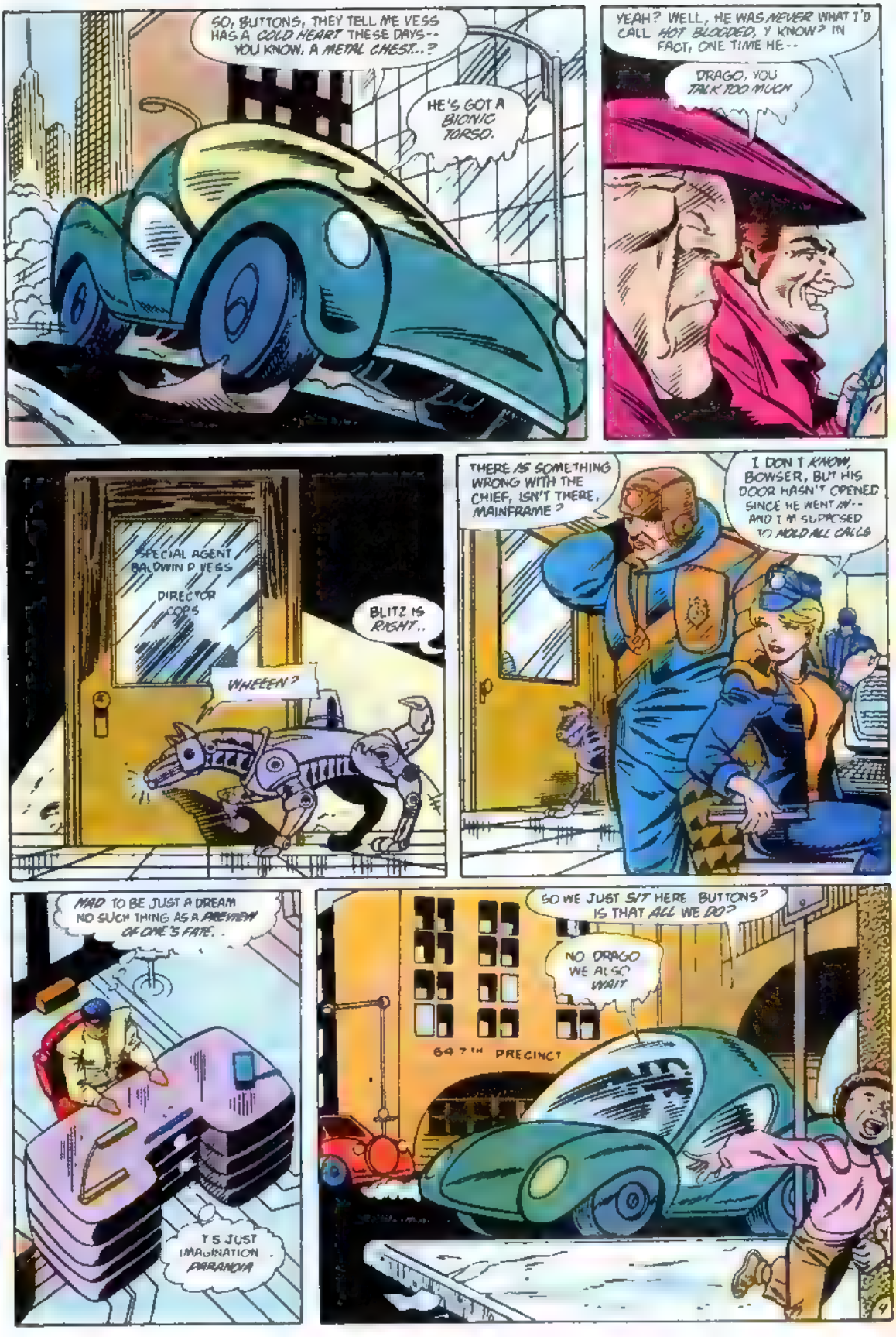
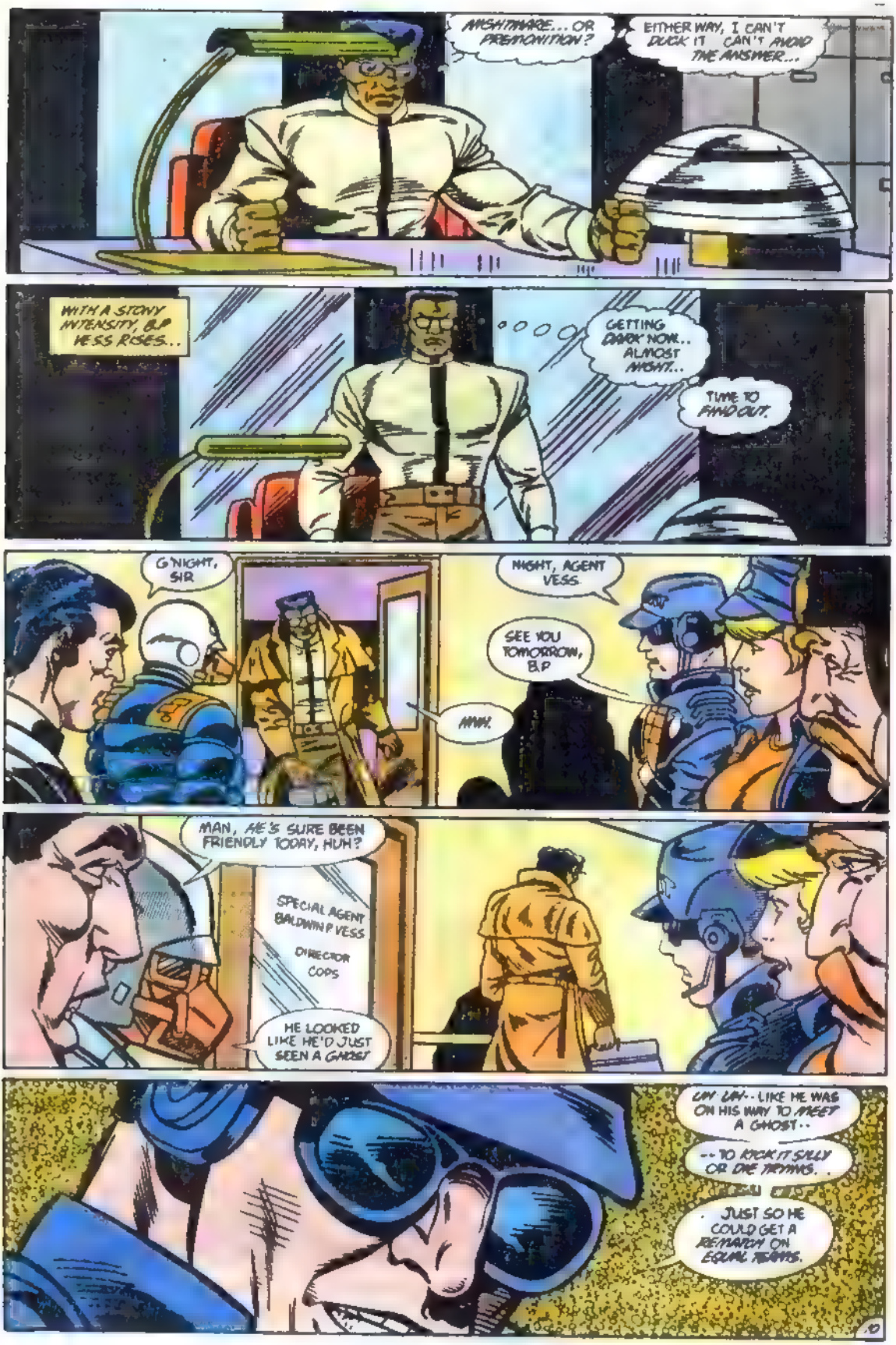
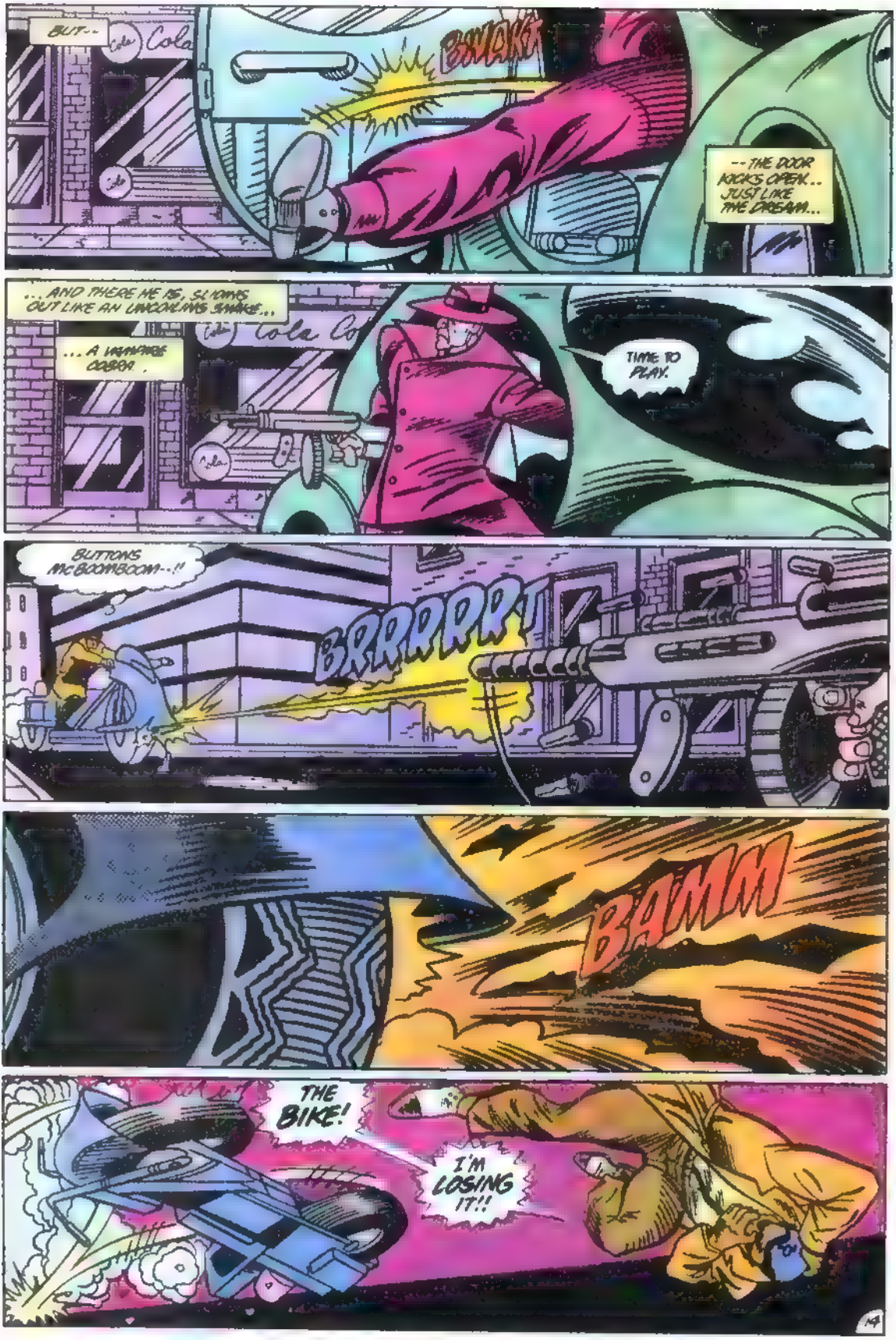

SO, BUTTONS, THEY TELL ME VESS HAS A COLD HEART THESE DAYS-- YOU KNOW, A METAL CHEST...?
HE'S GOT A BIONIC TORSO.
YEAH? WELL, HE WAS NEVER WHAT I'D CALL HOT BLOODED, Y KNOW? IN FACT, ONE TIME HE--
DRAGO, YOU TALK TOO MUCH
SPECIAL AGENT BALDWIN D VESS
DIRECTOR COPS
BLITZ IS RIGHT..
WHEEEN?
THERE AS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE CHIEF, ISN'T THERE, MAINFRAME?
I DON T KNOW, BOWSER, BUT HIS DOOR HASN'T OPENED SINCE HE WENT IN-- AND I M SUPPOSED TO HOLD ALL CALLS
MAD TO BE JUST A DREAM NO SUCH THING AS A PREVIEW OF ONE'S FATE. .
T S JUST IMAGINATION PARANOIA
SO WE JUST SIT HERE BUTTONS? IS THAT ALL WE DO?
NO DRAGO WE ALSO WAIT
64 7TH PRECINCT

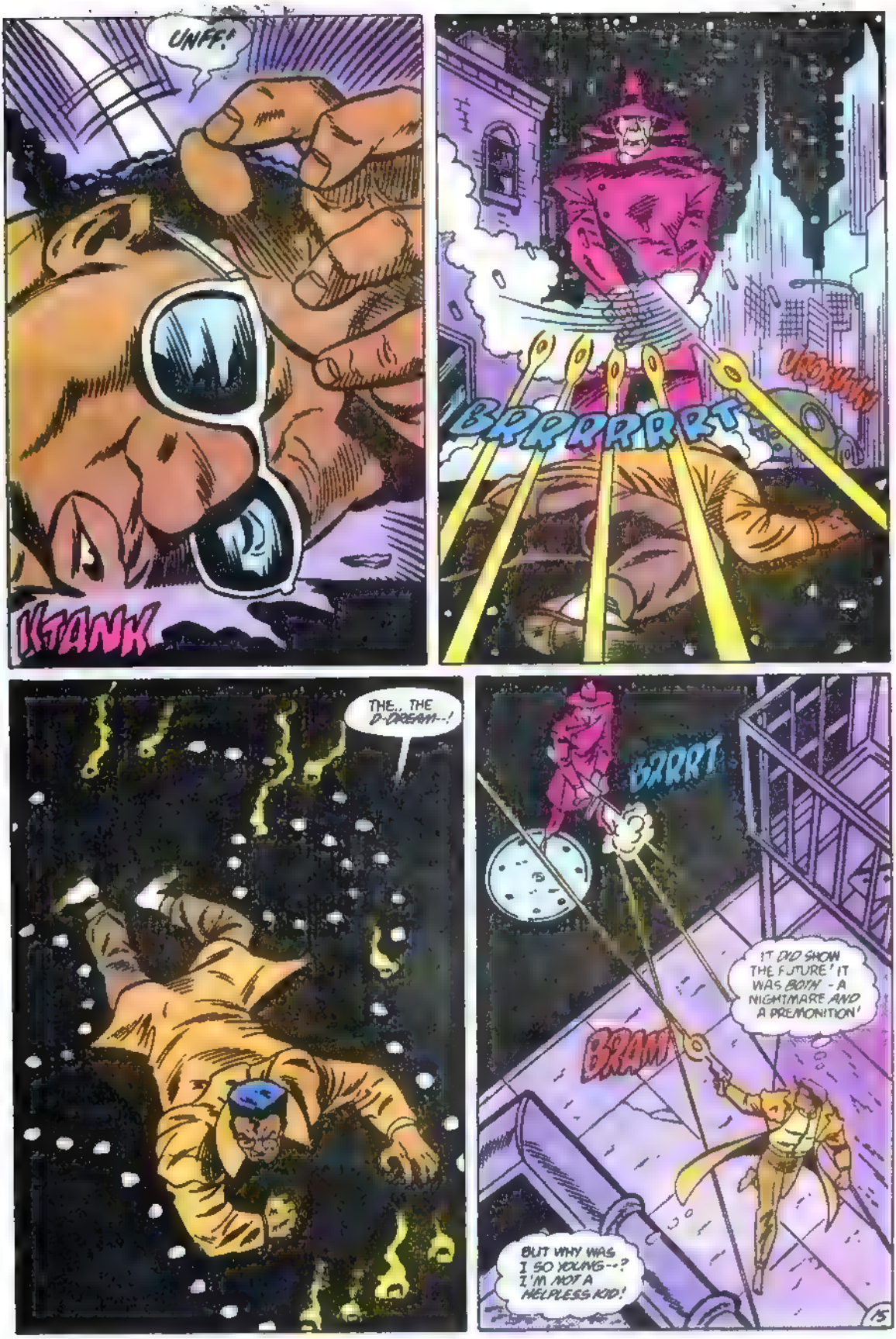

NIGHTMARE... OR PRECOGNITION?
EITHER WAY, I CAN'T DUCK IT. CAN'T AVOID THE ANSWER...
WITH A STONY INTENSITY, B.P. VESS RISES...
GETTING DARK NOW... ALMOST NIGHT...
TIME TO FIND OUT.
G'NIGHT, SIR.
NIGHT, AGENT VESS.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, B.P.
MMM.
MAN, HE'S SURE BEEN FRIENDLY TODAY, HUH?
SPECIAL AGENT BALDWIN P. VESS
DIRECTOR
COPS
HE LOOKED LIKE HE'D JUST SEEN A GHOST
UH UH-- LIKE HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO MEET A GHOST--
--TO KICK IT SILLY OR DIE TRYING.
JUST SO HE COULD GET A REMATCH ON EQUAL TERMS.

I TELL YA, LUCILLE WAS BEAUTIFUL, BUTTONS AND BOWS, ME--
SHUT UP!
GOING HOME, SIR?
I HOPE SO, BULLSEYE
OH
WELL, UM, HAVE A GOOD NIGHTMARE
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID "WELL, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT THERE"
WHAT DID YOU THINK?
SHEEESH
URAOWWWW
SKEEEEEEEE

THERE'RE 45 BUTTONS THAT'S MUST LESS ON THAT CYCLE
JUST DRIVE DRAGO THE WAY I TOLD YOU WITH THE PEDAL ALL THE WAY TO THE
45 AX BUTTONS
PREMONITION OR
NIGHTMARE?
WHAT THE
THAT VEHICLE MUST BE 200 MILES PER HOUR
KRRRSK
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
SKRUMMMM

THE DRIVER KNOWS I'M AFTER HIM! HE MUST HEAR MY SIREN BUT HE'S MAKING NO EFFORT TO TURN ANYWAY
VROOOOM
SKWEEEEE
NOW A RIGHT- AT TOP SPEED
CAN'T LOSE HIM... CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
WE'RE GETTIN CLOSE T THE WAREHOUSE BLOCKS!
ALL RIGHT, DRAGO
SLAM THE BRAKES
HERE
SKREEEEEEEEEEE
FINALLY HE'S STOPPING
3


BUT--
Cola
SNAKE
--THE DOOR KICKS OPEN... JUST LIKE THE DREAM...
...AND THERE HE IS, SLITHERS OUT LIKE AN UNCOILING SNAKE...
...A VENOMOUS COBRA.
TIME TO PLAY.
BUTTONS McBOOMBOOM--!!
BRRRRRR
BAMM
THE BIKE!
I'M LOSING IT!!


UNFF!
KTANK
BRRRRRRT
VROOOOM
THE.. THE D-DREAM--!
BZRRT
BRAM!
IT DID SHOW THE FUTURE! IT WAS BOTH - A NIGHTMARE AND A PREMONITION!
BUT WHY WAS I SO YOUNG--? I'M NOT A HELPLESS KID!
15

I CAN BEAT THIS! I CAN FIGHT BACK!
BRRRT
BRAM
DOWN THIS ALLEY - AND AROUND THE CORNER WHERE I CAN WAIT FOR HIM
BUT--
WHAT THE--?!
KTING
BRRRRT
GOT TO REACH THE NEXT CORNER
BRRRRT
AND SO HE RUNS, UP ONE ALLEY AND DOWN ANOTHER, THROUGH THE DARK EVER DEEPER IN TO THE TWISTED MAZE OF A NIGHTMARE TURNED REAL
HE KNOWS THE DARKNESS TOO WELL! IT'S AS IF HE HE'S EVERYWHERE!
AND WHENEVER I SEE HIM, SAFE, EVEN IF ONLY FOR THE MOMENT

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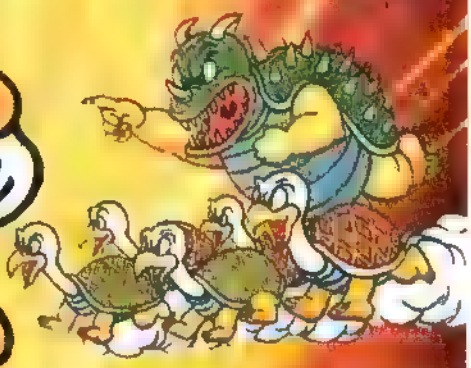

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292, 298, 300, 5.00, 2.00, 3.50; 293, 295, 3.00, 1.50, 296, 297, 2.50; 294, 1.50, 2.00, 2.25; 299, 2.00, 1.75, 2.00, 237, 240; 241, 242, 1.50, 2.00, 243, 244, 1.50, 2.00, 245, 246, 1.50, 2.00, 247, 248, 1.50, 2.00, 249, 250, 1.50, 2.00, 251, 252, 1.50, 2.00, 253, 254, 1.50, 2.00, 255, 256, 1.50, 2.00, 257, 258, 1.50, 2.00, 259, 260, 1.50, 2.00, 261, 262, 1.50, 2.00, 263, 264, 1.50, 2.00, 265, 266, 1.50, 2.00, 267, 268, 1.50, 2.00, 269, 270, 1.50, 2.00, 271, 272, 1.50, 2.00, 273, 274, 1.50, 2.00, 275, 276, 1.50, 2.00, 277, 278, 1.50, 2.00, 279, 280, 1.50, 2.00, 281, 282, 1.50, 2.00, 283, 284, 1.50, 2.00, 285, 286, 1.50, 2.00, 287, 288, 1.50, 2.00, 289, 290, 1.50, 2.00, 291, 292, 1.50, 2.00, 293, 294, 1.50, 2.00, 295, 296, 1.50, 2.00, 297, 298, 1.50, 2.00, 299, 300, 1.50, 2.00, 301, 302, 1.50, 2.00, 303, 304, 1.50, 2.00, 305, 306, 1.50, 2.00, 307, 308, 1.50, 2.00, 309, 310, 1.50, 2.00, 311, 312, 1.50, 2.00, 313, 314, 1.50, 2.00, 315, 316, 1.50, 2.00, 317, 318, 1.50, 2.00, 319, 320, 1.50, 2.00, 321, 322, 1.50, 2.00, 323, 324, 1.50, 2.00, 325, 326, 1.50, 2.00, 327, 328, 1.50, 2.00, 329, 330, 1.50, 2.00, 331, 332, 1.50, 2.00, 333, 334, 1.50, 2.00, 335, 336, 1.50, 2.00, 337, 338, 1.50, 2.00, 339, 340, 1.50, 2.00, 341, 342, 1.50, 2.00, 343, 344, 1.50, 2.00, 345, 346, 1.50, 2.00, 347, 348, 1.50, 2.00, 349, 350, 1.50, 2.00, 351, 352, 1.50, 2.00, 353, 354, 1.50, 2.00, 355, 356, 1.50, 2.00, 357, 358, 1.50, 2.00, 359, 360, 1.50, 2.00, 361, 362, 1.50, 2.00, 363, 364, 1.50, 2.00, 365, 366, 1.50, 2.00, 367, 368, 1.50, 2.00, 369, 370, 1.50, 2.00, 371, 372, 1.50, 2.00, 373, 374, 1.50, 2.00, 375, 376, 1.50, 2.00, 377, 378, 1.50, 2.00, 379, 380, 1.50, 2.00, 381, 382, 1.50, 2.00, 383, 384, 1.50, 2.00, 385, 386, 1.50, 2.00, 387, 388, 1.50, 2.00, 389, 390, 1.50, 2.00, 391, 392, 1.50, 2.00, 393, 394, 1.50, 2.00, 395, 396, 1.50, 2.00, 397, 398, 1.50, 2.00, 399, 400, 1.50, 2.00, 401, 402, 1.50, 2.00, 403, 404, 1.50, 2.00, 405, 406, 1.50, 2.00, 407, 408, 1.50, 2.00, 409, 410, 1.50, 2.00, 411, 412, 1.50, 2.00, 413, 414, 1.50, 2.00, 415, 416, 1.50, 2.00, 417, 418, 1.50, 2.00, 419, 420, 1.50, 2.00, 421, 422, 1.50, 2.00, 423, 424, 1.50, 2.00, 425, 426, 1.50, 2.00, 427, 428, 1.50, 2.00, 429, 430, 1.50, 2.00, 431, 432, 1.50, 2.00, 433, 434, 1.50, 2.00, 435, 436, 1.50, 2.00, 437, 438, 1.50, 2.00, 439, 440, 1.50, 2.00, 441, 442, 1.50, 2.00, 443, 444, 1.50, 2.00, 445, 446, 1.50, 2.00, 447, 448, 1.50, 2.00, 449, 450, 1.50, 2.00, 451, 452, 1.50, 2.00, 453, 454, 1.50, 2.00, 455, 456, 1.50, 2.00, 457, 458, 1.50, 2.00, 459, 460, 1.50, 2.00, 461, 462, 1.50, 2.00, 463, 464, 1.50, 2.00, 465, 466, 1.50, 2.00, 467, 468, 1.50, 2.00, 469, 470, 1.50, 2.00, 471, 472, 1.50, 2.00, 473, 474, 1.50, 2.00, 475, 476, 1.50, 2.00, 477, 478, 1.50, 2.00, 479, 480, 1.50, 2.00, 481, 482, 1.50, 2.00, 483, 484, 1.50, 2.00, 485, 486, 1.50, 2.00, 487, 488, 1.50, 2.00, 489, 490, 1.50, 2.00, 491, 492, 1.50, 2.00, 493, 494, 1.50, 2.00, 495, 496, 1.50, 2.00, 497, 498, 1.50, 2.00, 499, 500, 1.50, 2.00, 501, 502, 1.50, 2.00, 503, 504, 1.50, 2.00, 505, 506, 1.50, 2.00, 507, 508, 1.50, 2.00, 509, 510, 1.50, 2.00, 511, 512, 1.50, 2.00, 513, 514, 1.50, 2.00, 515, 516, 1.50, 2.00, 517, 518, 1.50, 2.00, 519, 520, 1.50, 2.00, 521, 522, 1.50, 2.00, 523, 524, 1.50, 2.00, 525, 526, 1.50, 2.00, 527, 528, 1.50, 2.00, 529, 530, 1.50, 2.00, 531, 532, 1.50, 2.00, 533, 534, 1.50, 2.00, 535, 536, 1.50, 2.00, 537, 538, 1.50, 2.00, 539, 540, 1.50, 2.00, 541, 542, 1.50, 2.00, 543, 544, 1.50, 2.00, 545, 546, 1.50, 2.00, 547, 548, 1.50, 2.00, 549, 550, 1.50, 2.00, 551, 552, 1.50, 2.00, 553, 554, 1.50, 2.00, 555, 556, 1.50, 2.00, 557, 558, 1.50, 2.00, 559, 560, 1.50, 2.00, 561, 562, 1.50, 2.00, 563, 564, 1.50, 2.00, 565, 566, 1.50, 2.00, 567, 568, 1.50, 2.00, 569, 570, 1.50, 2.00, 571, 572, 1.50, 2.00, 573, 574, 1.50, 2.00, 575, 576, 1.50, 2.00, 577, 578, 1.50, 2.00, 579, 580, 1.50, 2.00, 581, 582, 1.50, 2.00, 583, 584, 1.50, 2.00, 585, 586, 1.50, 2.00, 587, 588, 1.50, 2.00, 589, 590, 1.50, 2.00, 591, 592, 1.50, 2.00, 593, 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2.00, 685, 686, 1.50, 2.00, 687, 688, 1.50, 2.00, 689, 690, 1.50, 2.00, 691, 692, 1.50, 2.00, 693, 694, 1.50, 2.00, 695, 696, 1.50, 2.00, 697, 698, 1.50, 2.00, 699, 700, 1.50, 2.00, 701, 702, 1.50, 2.00, 703, 704, 1.50, 2.00, 705, 706, 1.50, 2.00, 707, 708, 1.50, 2.00, 709, 710, 1.50, 2.00, 711, 712, 1.50, 2.00, 713, 714, 1.50, 2.00, 715, 716, 1.50, 2.00, 717, 718, 1.50, 2.00, 719, 720, 1.50, 2.00, 721, 722, 1.50, 2.00, 723, 724, 1.50, 2.00, 725, 726, 1.50, 2.00, 727, 728, 1.50, 2.00, 729, 730, 1.50, 2.00, 731, 732, 1.50, 2.00, 733, 734, 1.50, 2.00, 735, 736, 1.50, 2.00, 737, 738, 1.50, 2.00, 739, 740, 1.50, 2.00, 741, 742, 1.50, 2.00, 743, 744, 1.50, 2.00, 745, 746, 1.50, 2.00, 747, 748, 1.50, 2.00, 749, 750, 1.50, 2.00, 751, 752, 1.50, 2.00, 753, 754, 1.50, 2.00, 755, 756, 1.50, 2.00, 757, 758, 1.50, 2.00, 759, 760, 1.50, 2.00, 761, 762, 1.50, 2.00, 763, 764, 1.50, 2.00, 765, 766, 1.50, 2.00, 767, 768, 1.50, 2.00, 769, 770, 1.50, 2.00, 771, 772, 1.50, 2.00, 773, 774, 1.50, 2.00, 775, 776, 1.50, 2.00, 777, 778, 1.50, 2.00, 779, 780, 1.50, 2.00, 781, 782, 1.50, 2.00, 783, 784, 1.50, 2.00, 785, 786, 1.50, 2.00, 787, 788, 1.50, 2.00, 789, 790, 1.50, 2.00, 791, 792, 1.50, 2.00, 793, 794, 1.50, 2.00, 795, 796, 1.50, 2.00, 797, 798, 1.50, 2.00, 799, 800, 1.50, 2.00, 801, 802, 1.50, 2.00, 803, 804, 1.50, 2.00, 805, 806, 1.50, 2.00, 807, 808, 1.50, 2.00, 809, 810, 1.50, 2.00, 811, 812, 1.50, 2.00, 813, 814, 1.50, 2.00, 815, 816, 1.50, 2.00, 817, 818, 1.50, 2.00, 819, 820, 1.50, 2.00, 821, 822, 1.50, 2.00, 823, 824, 1.50, 2.00, 825, 826, 1.50, 2.00, 827, 828, 1.50, 2.00, 829, 830, 1.50, 2.00, 831, 832, 1.50, 2.00, 833, 834, 1.50, 2.00, 835, 836, 1.50, 2.00, 837, 838, 1.50, 2.00, 839, 840, 1.50, 2.00, 841, 842, 1.50, 2.00, 843, 844, 1.50, 2.00, 845, 846, 1.50, 2.00, 847, 848, 1.50, 2.00, 849, 850, 1.50, 2.00, 851, 852, 1.50, 2.00, 853, 854, 1.50, 2.00, 855, 856, 1.50, 2.00, 857, 858, 1.50, 2.00, 859, 860, 1.50, 2.00, 861, 862, 1.50, 2.00, 863, 864, 1.50, 2.00, 865, 866, 1.50, 2.00, 867, 868, 1.50, 2.00, 869, 870, 1.50, 2.00, 871, 872, 1.50, 2.00, 873, 874, 1.50, 2.00, 875, 876, 1.50, 2.00, 877, 878, 1.50, 2.00, 879, 880, 1.50, 2.00, 881, 882, 1.50, 2.00, 883, 884, 1.50, 2.00, 885, 886, 1.50, 2.00, 887, 888, 1.50, 2.00, 889, 890, 1.50, 2.00, 891, 892, 1.50, 2.00, 893, 894, 1.50, 2.00, 895, 896, 1.50, 2.00, 897, 898, 1.50, 2.00, 899, 900, 1.50, 2.00, 901, 902, 1.50, 2.00, 903, 904, 1.50, 2.00, 905, 906, 1.50, 2.00, 907, 908, 1.50, 2.00, 909, 910, 1.50, 2.00, 911, 912, 1.50, 2.00, 913, 914, 1.50, 2.00, 915, 916, 1.50, 2.00, 917, 918, 1.50, 2.00, 919, 920, 1.50, 2.00, 921, 922, 1.50, 2.00, 923, 924, 1.50, 2.00, 925, 926, 1.50, 2.00, 927, 928, 1.50, 2.00, 929, 930, 1.50, 2.00, 931, 932, 1.50, 2.00, 933, 934, 1.50, 2.00, 935, 936, 1.50, 2.00, 937, 938, 1.50, 2.00, 939, 940, 1.50, 2.00, 941, 942, 1.50, 2.00, 943, 944, 1.50, 2.00, 945, 946, 1.50, 2.00, 947, 948, 1.50, 2.00, 949, 950, 1.50, 2.00, 951, 952, 1.50, 2.00, 953, 954, 1.50, 2.00, 955, 956, 1.50, 2.00, 957, 958, 1.50, 2.00, 959, 960, 1.50, 2.00, 961, 962, 1.50, 2.00, 963, 964, 1.50, 2.00, 965, 966, 1.50, 2.00, 967, 968, 1.50, 2.00, 969, 970, 1.50, 2.00, 971, 972, 1.50, 2.00, 973, 974, 1.50, 2.00, 975, 976, 1.50, 2.00, 977, 978, 1.50, 2.00, 979, 980, 1.50, 2.00, 981, 982, 1.50, 2.00, 983, 984, 1.50, 2.00, 985, 986, 1.50, 2.00, 987, 988, 1.50, 2.00, 989, 990, 1.50, 2.00, 991, 992, 1.50, 2.00, 993, 994, 1.50, 2.00, 995, 996, 1.50, 2.00, 997, 998, 1.50, 2.00, 999, 1000, 1.50, 2.00

ANIMAL MAN
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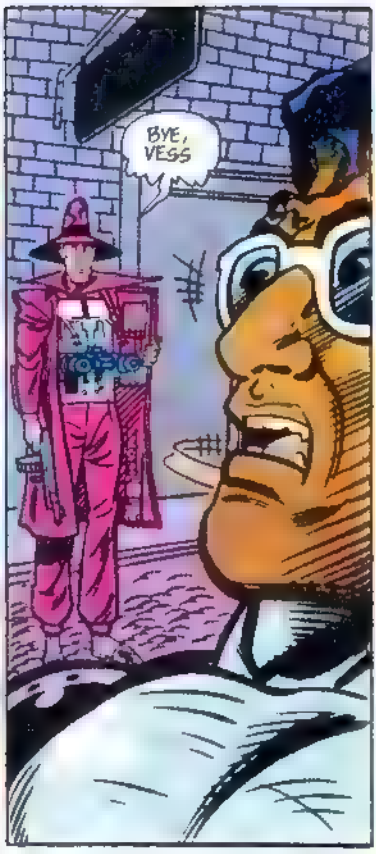
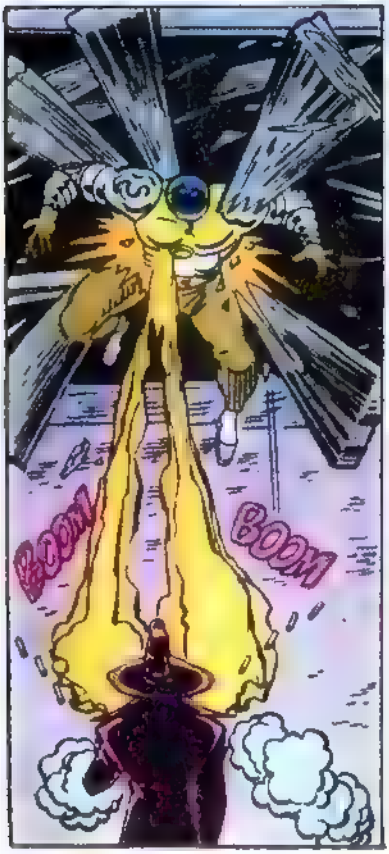
ARCHIE
340, 347, 348, 351, 354, 356, 358, 360, 361, 364, 366, 368, 370, 384, 387, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470,

NOOO!!!
BRRRRT
..HE IS FORCED TO RUN AGAIN
IT...IT'S INSANE!
C-CAN'T BE HAPPENING. CAN'T BE REAL... J-JUST A DREAM... JUST A NIGHTMARE.
AND WHEN HIS LEGS ARE ON FIRE— WHEN HIS MENTAL CHEST FEELS READY TO EXPLODE— HE CANNOT POSSIBLY RUN ONE STEP FARTHER.
BRRRRRT
HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN AGAIN
KRAK!
AND HE RUNS SOME MORE
KSLASH!

FINALLY, IN FRONT OF THE ROTTING DOORS OF AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE
GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF...
WAREHOUSE
SHAMP
GOT TO BEAT THE PREMONITION.. GOT TO--

MCKLIK
OH, NO.

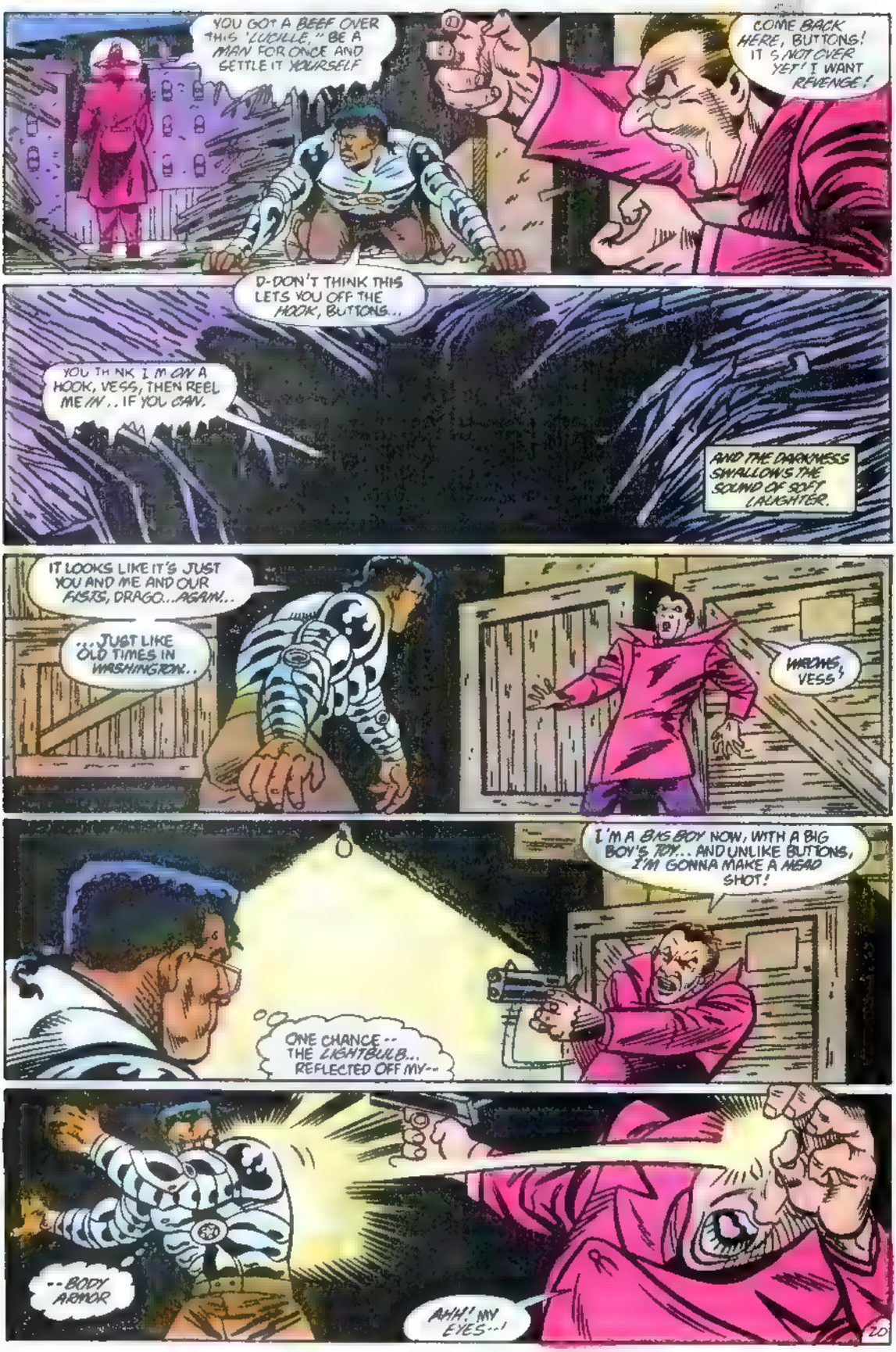

BYE, VESS


BOOM
BOOM

ALL RIGHT, DRAGO HERE HE IS.
D-DRAGO ?

THAT'S RIGHT VESS- IT'S TIME FOR A REAL BLAST FROM THE PAST! AND YOU KNOW WHY--? BECAUSE YOU NEVER DESERVED LUCILLE, THAT'S WHY!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?

ABOUT LUCILLE, VESS! REMEMBER?! WE BOTH LOVED HER, VESS, BOTH WANTED HER -- BUT YOU ONLY DID DULL "GOOD" THINGS WITH HER!
AFTER I TOOK HER FROM YOU, SHE WAS HAPPIER!
Y-YOU'RE .. CRAZY, DRAGO...
SUDDENLY SHE WAS ABLE TO RUN WILD AND FREE -- AND SHE LOVED IT VESS, I SWEAR TO YOU SHE DID!
AND YOU HAD NO CALL TO STEAL HER BACK FROM ME!
IT.. WASN'T STEALING, DRAGO LUCILLE WAS MINE
BUT SHE WAS HAPPIER WITH ME! I SHOWED HER GOOD TIMES! I FREED HER!
WHAT YOU DID, DRAGO, WAS A CRIME. TAKING LUCILLE BACK.. WAS JUSTICE
ENOUGH!
FINISH HIM OFF, BUTTONS!
YOU CHEAP OUT-OF-TOWN PUNKS NEVER UNDERSTAND I DON'T KILL, DRAGO. I LET MY MARKS LIVE. . AFTER BREAKING THEM DOWN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KILL--?
YOU BLASTED HIM A HUNDRED TIMES
HE'S BULLETPROOF AND MY ASSIGNMENT TO YOU WAS TEMPORARY--
--FULFILLED THE MOMENT I DELIVERED VESS ON HIS KNEES
19


YOU GOT A BEEF OVER THIS 'LUCILLE,' BE A MAN FOR ONCE AND SETTLE IT YOURSELF
COME BACK HERE, BUTTONS! IT'S NOT OVER YET! I WANT REVENGE!
D-DON'T THINK THIS LETS YOU OFF THE HOOK, BUTTONS...
YOU THINK I'M ON A HOOK, VESS, THEN REEL ME IN.. IF YOU CAN.
AND THE DARKNESS SWALLOWS THE SOUND OF SOFT LAUGHTER.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST YOU AND ME AND OUR FISTS, DRAGO...AGAIN...
...JUST LIKE OLD TIMES IN WASHINGTON..
WRONG, VESS!
I'M A BIG BOY NOW, WITH A BIG BOY'S TOY.. AND UNLIKE BUTTONS, I'M GONNA MAKE A HEAD SHOT!
ONE CHANCE -- THE LIGHTBULB... REFLECTED OFF MY--
--BODY ARMOR
AHH! MY EYES--!

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AND NOW THAT WE'RE ADULTS -
WUMP
SPUNCH
-- YOU 'RE EVEN WORSE!
SPLAM
AND WHEREVER YOU ARE, BUTTONS
- I M NOT BROKEN.
I LL NEVER BREAK NO MATTER HOW MANY N GHT- MARES YOU THROW AT ME
21

EPILOGUE:
THE 647TH PRECINCT, COPS HQ:
LUCILLE!! IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF LUCILLE, I TELL YOU! SHE WAS SLEEK AND BEAUTIFUL!!
647 PRECINCT
I WAS ONLY DOING IT FOR LUCILLE!!
LUCILLLLLLLE!!
WHAT'S HE RAVING ABOUT ANYWAY, B.P.? WAS THE WHOLE BRANNIGAN OVER A WOMAN?
NOT QUITE, LONGARM..
LUCILLE WAS A BIKE.

NEXT ISSUE: BIG BOSS and THE BIG BUST

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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L-3791

Dear 647th Precinct,

Issue #10 was *cool*!! The story was the best since #5. This is the best Berserko has been in any issue. Let's see more like that. The drawings are getting much, much better. Before I go, I would like to ask one question. On page 14, panel 4, there's a black-and-white Campbell's soup can drawing. Why is it there?

See ya.

Belmont (Stakes) Magill
Vine Grove, KY

It was supposedly a hologram—a three-dimensional light image—of Andy Warhol's last Campbell's soup can projected from the stand beneath it. Ms. Demeanor was trying to steal it with the help of a 3-D light trapper of Dr. Badvibes's design.

Dear COPS,

This is the first comic book series that I have purchased from issue #1, and I think, up to now, it has been worth my while. I thought that the Case of COPS File #10 "Week of the Good Badvibes" has been your best issue since, because of two things:

1) My favorite Bad Guy is centered in this issue (Badvibes); and

2) It is, in my opinion, the most original idea for a story you have come up with.

The first time COPS appeared in the comic store, I bought it straight away and I think the quality of your comic has remained in its high to this time. I live in the Philippines where comics come about two weeks late, so I never had the patience to collect comics, but COPS is worth the wait. I only have two questions, which are:

1) Will you ever come up with a comic book that would serve as a roster for COPS (for example *G.I. Joe's Special Mission, Tales of G.I. Joe*, and *European Missions*)?

2) Will COPS come out with sister comics (for example, *BATMAN-DETECTIVE*)?

This is the first time I have ever written to a comic book, so please excuse this disorganization. And one more thing...

...Please print this letter in one of the COPS Editions!!

A Loyal COPS Fan,
Intesar Haquani
The Philippines

Okay, Intesar, you don't have to shout.

To answer both your questions: There are no plans for either a comic book that would serve as a roster for COPS or a sister / brother / niece / nephew / cousin/second cousin edition—unless, of course, sales warrant it. How would you like these issues to be different? What do you think of solo COPS adventures?

Dear Doug, Pat, etc.,

When I saw the cover to issue #10 of COPS, with the crossed-out "bad" and written-in "good" on Badvibes's badge, I just had to buy it (who does your coloring? Helen Vesik? It was very effective), and after I read it, I had to write.

You guys've got a great sense of humor—"Da scary shape o' da skull" (page 10, panel 5) has to be one of the funniest lines ever written, and in the same scene the "invisible [bars], maybe—but they sure are wigglin' an' vibratin'." Great stuff. And I laughed out loud to the tribute to a certain moonwalker on page 20. Where does Big Boss get all his desks?

You also seem to know what kind of action we want. The Berserko vs. Barricade scene was great. Uh, weren't they supposed to be silver ingots that Berserko was trying to steal? Yet, they were colored yellow. Why? I have an explanation, if I may: they were gold-plated silver ingots, right? Leave it to Doug Moench. (Too bad this isn't the other company, or I'd be asking for a No-Prize.)

Well, that's all I've got to say for right now. You kind of make me wish that I could play with the toys; and if I were younger, I probably would, just based on the enjoyment this comic has given me. Maybe I'll get them anyway—what the heck. Thanks.

Harry Russell
508 Ashland Avenue #101
Santa Monica, CA 90405

P.S. Who was the "Special thanks for plot assist to Derek M." mentioned on page 1?

Derek M. is Derek Moench, Doug's son, who is obviously not only a source of joy, but of inspiration to his dad. Doug said just the other day, "Believe me, what happens in these books is nothing compared to what my son puts the COPS toys through when he plays with them." It's probably too violent to appear on these pages. You should never be ashamed of what you do for fun, Harry, within reason, of course. You should see the number of toys around this office! The cover coloring for most of DC's books is done by one amazing man: Bob Le Rose of DC's production department, a creative master of brush and rainbow. And the humor is one of the main reasons we like producing this comic, almost as much as you like reading it — maybe more.

Dear COPS,

Hey, what's up? Hasbro should pay you guys more money because COPS #11 convinced me that I should buy the toys. I stopped over at Toys "R" Us today and picked up Big Boss, Buttons McBoomBoom (my favorite), Sundown, and Mace. I would have gotten Barricade after issue #11, but I couldn't find him. The caps scared me when they went off.

Please keep up the good work and bug Hasbro to make all the girls.

Marc Buxton
18 Rolling Way
New City, NY 10956

What did you think of Buttons's spotlight in this issue, Duckman? How did you pick up Big Boss? With a crane? (B'dmpburn!)

Dear COPS,

I really like Longarm and Barricade. I like to read COPS comic books. In issue #10 I liked the way Big Boss always breaks his desk so he needs a new one. I have a question. Are Mirage and Nightshade and Ms. Demeanor ever going to be toy figures?

Well, 'bye for now.

Kenny McLean
4348 Jackrabbit Drive
Billings, MT 59106

That decision is up to Hasbro.

Dear COPS 'n' CROOKS,

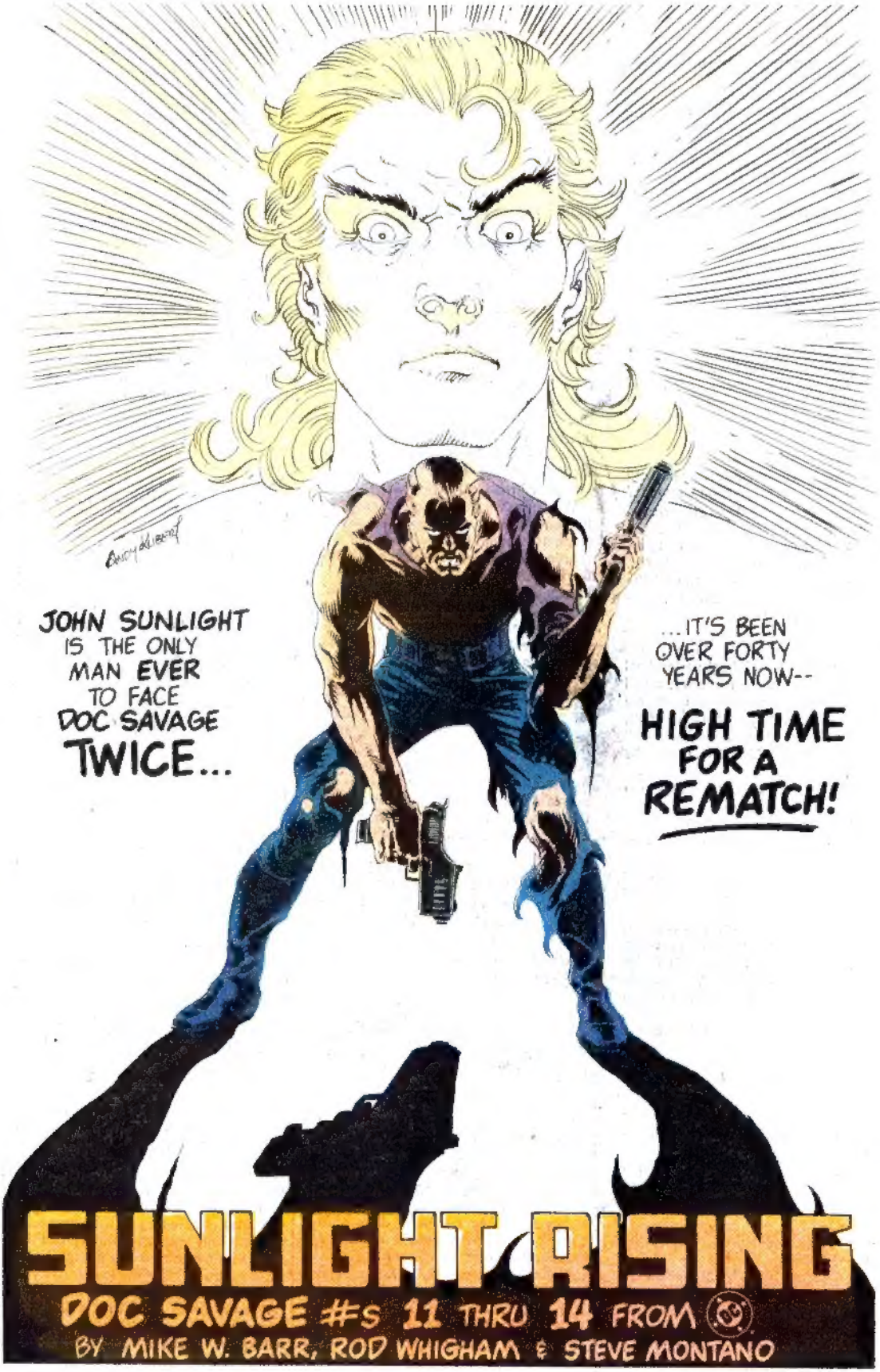
In response to issue #10, when is Hasbro going to release the breakable Big Boss desk?

Donald K. Niven
Westwood, CA

Probably right after they release T.R.A.M.P.L.U.R. You see, these were ideas Doug Moench came up with and, although Hasbro has the option of doing them, there are no plans at present of developing them.

NEXT ISSUE: The COPS finally have the goods on Big Boss; now all they have to do is slap the cuffs on him. Problem is: Big Boss is holed up in the penthouse and the only way up is through all the Crooks! It's one of those all-out action issues you've always loved. They're timing crimes in a future fight. (That's not even close!) They're the sound a horse makes on a cobblestone road! (Doggone, that's "clops"—only one more issue to get it right.) They're COPS!

—KEVIN DOOLEY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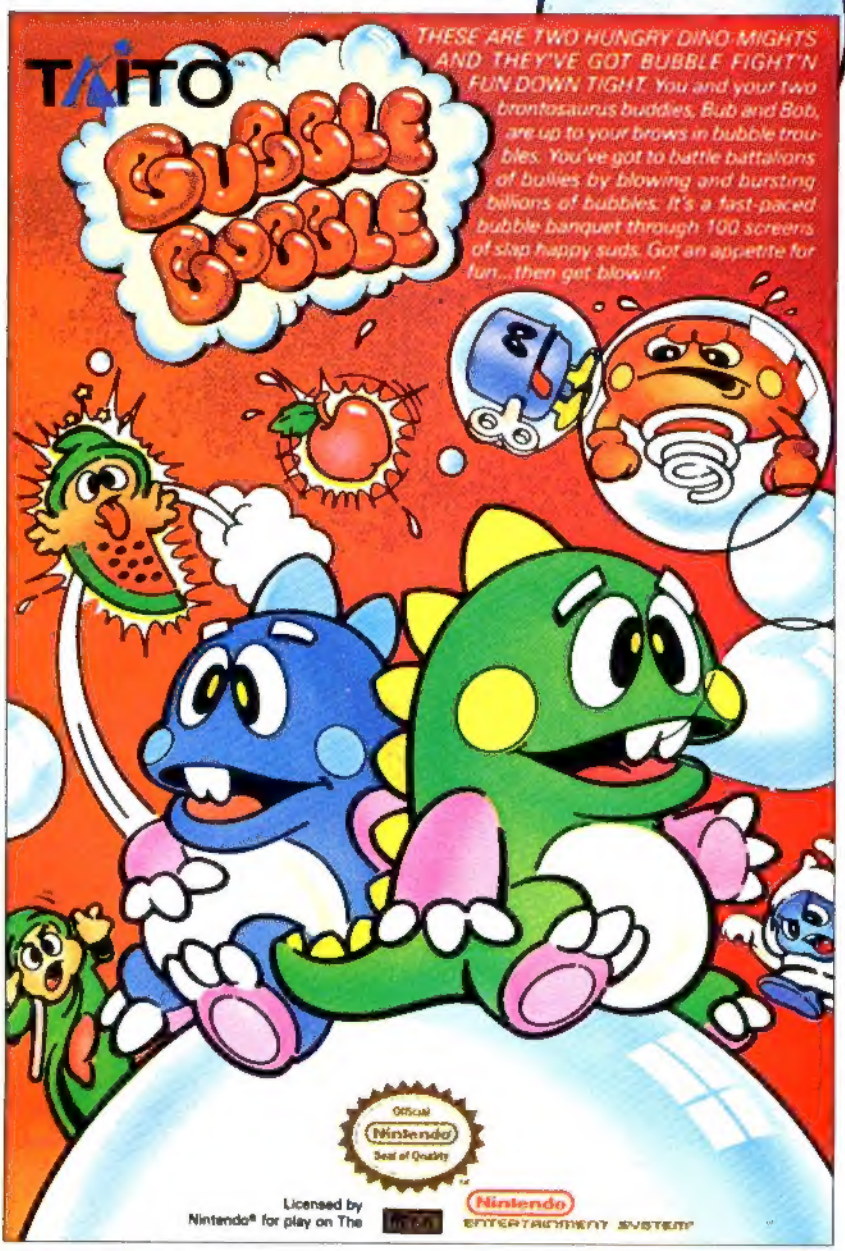
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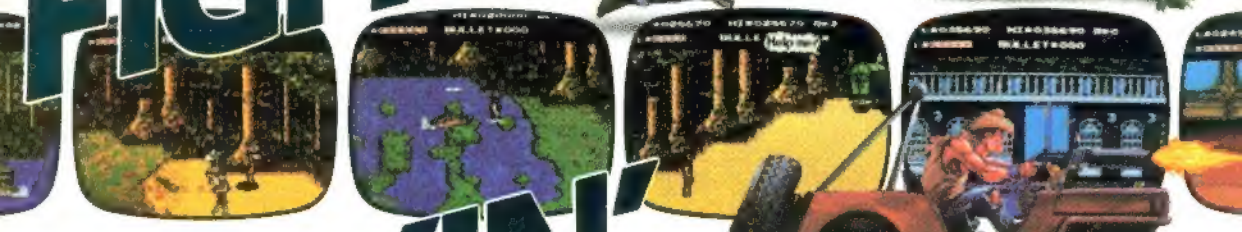

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